

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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Review Editor

**Dermabrasion and Chemical Peeling**, James W. Burks, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1979 (256 pp., \$22.50)

This comprehensive resume of the extensive experience of the author in dermabrasion, is the second edition of the handbook which was first published in 1956. Although there is updating to include dermabrasion of tatoos, removal of elevated hair transplant grafts, abrasion of the punch technique, replacement of ice pick acne pits and dermabrasion in conjunction with chemical peeling. The book appears to be a copy of its 23-year old original. The pictures are in black and white, which was used in earlier years but should have been updated by color pictures showing long-term results, rather than 3-mo follow-ups.

Burks outlines succinctly those conditions which in his opinion, only dermabrasion should be used and others in which dermabrasion may be used as an alternative procedure. On page 9 he appropriately mentions silicone injection for the correction of depressed scars, but does not mention the possible surface shadows that can occur if dermabrasion is performed over silicone treated areas.

In the chapter on chemical peeling, there is a mix-up between before and after pictures on page 212. The chapter is crisply written and appropriate, but is not extensive enough to be included in the book title. More emphasis should be placed on comparative technique and results in deep peeling with phenol versus trichloroacetic acid 50%, taping vs. non-taping, etc. The work on histopathology of the skin in chemical peel should also be included in this section.

The book is a living monument to the author, a pioneer in dermabrasion, who showed enormous expertise and courage in treating disfiguring conditions with a revolutionary treatment method. The book is recommended for (both experienced and inexperienced) cosmetic surgeons who perform dermabrasion surgery.

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**Dermatologie Neonatale. Collection Neo-Natologie**, D. Wallach, Vigot Editions, Paris. 1979. 141 pages, illustrated both in color and black and white. (141 pp, price not given).

This book is a neat little introduction to the skin of the newborn. Written in French, it is handsomely produced with soft cover, clear printing and for the most part, excellent color and black and white illustrations as well as concise tables. The chapters are sensibly arranged with transient lesions given brief but adequate descriptions. The infections are discussed perhaps a bit too cursorily, but I admired the completeness of the small paragraph on the treatment of perinatal and neonatal *H. Simplex* infection. American readers may wonder what some of the treatments actually are (i.e. Milian's solution) or whether to order sweet almond oil from the grocery or pharmacy.

I found some minor areas in the text to disagree with. These include: The belief that milk or food has anything specific to do with the cause of atopic dermatitis. Vitamin E remains a controversial drug with regards to its efficacy in epidermolysis bullosa of any form. Dr. Wallach has included cutis marmorata telangiectatica in the traditional class of angiomas. It may have been appropriate to exclude this condition from the group of angiomas. Dr. Wallach accurately describes their course of livido; ulceration and scarring and general improvement with age; they behave more like localized vascular accidents. There is no discussion of scabies in the first month of life, while the first infant I ever saw with the condition was at Hopital St. Louis in Paris.

Among the many things I found to admire in this excellent little book were the remarkably complete chapters on nevi and the excellent chapter on hyperkeratoses of the palms and soles. The book is clearly written. You do not have to be fluent in French to understand it and since the compiled literature on skin diseases in the newborn is so limited, anyone with an interest in this subject should own a copy of this text.

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**Genetic Diseases of the Skin**, V. M. Kaloustian and A. K. Kurban, Springer Verlag, New York, 1979 (339 pp., \$90)

Why are there so few texts on genetic disorders of the skin? One could argue that no one wants to follow the classic and still unbeatable Cockayne performance. True, Cockayne's *Inhereditary Abnormalities of the Skin and its Appendages* is, at 50 years of age, still the reigning champion, but is sadly and simply unavailable. Butterworth and Streat's *Clinical Genodermatology* was a useful text published 25 years ago and is also no longer in print. Other books are available but are either not exclusively devoted to the skin or are too narrow in the number of entities covered to be considered adequately comprehensive as a text. The new text of Der Kaloustian and Kurban meets enough of the criteria to warrant the attention of all those with a special interest in the genodermatoses, even if the price is steep.

The black and white illustrations, for the most part rarely found together anywhere, are, in general, excellent.

Particularly noteworthy are illustrations of the blistering dermatoses, the progeroid disorders, the cranial facial disorders, and the connective tissue disorders. I felt the illustrations of the ichthyoses lent themselves less well to the desired interpretations. The introductory chapters present a straightforward approach to the basic science underpinnings of clinical genetics. The small but pertinent section on prevention is right up to date, including a discussion of fetoscopy in visualization of the skin. Intrauterine skin biopsy techniques have logically developed from such studies. The authors also whet our appetites with a few comments about replacement of gene-products. The section on basic genetics occupies, with references, only sixteen pages. As competently written as it is, it could have been expanded somewhat. Similarly, and perhaps more importantly, there should have been included a segment larger than the small paragraph offered on cutaneous embryology so necessary for understanding some of the anomalous disorders accompanying the dysmorphic changes in the skin. The crowning virtue of demonstrating the development of cutaneous structure is the manner in which it forcefully brings home the understanding that the skin is not a simple epithelium but a complex community of organs residing in an environment which has traditionally, and probably wrongfully, been considered a product alone of "ectodermal" origin.

This text has some outstanding elements. These include a number of concise, useful tables that help to clarify the immunodeficiency syndromes, an excellent chapter on the metabolic disorders, including lipogranulomatosis and fucosidosis, and ample discussion of numerous rare disorders not likely to be found in any general text of dermatology. Considering the importance of the subject, the text is somewhat weak on epidermal dysplasias and hypertrophies. Furthermore, one comes away with no unified concept of the ectodermal dysplasias. The infantile fibromatoses are a more complex subject than one would suspect from the brief discussion in the text. Finally, there is a serious misstatement: "Common moles are usually present at birth." They are not. The average adult has 30 melanocytic nevi, whereas the incidence in the newborn numary is in about 1-4% of live births.

In spite of these minor criticisms, this text helps to fill a void in the library of all departments of dermatology and the reference shelf of the practitioner.

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**Handbuch Der Haut—und Geschlechtskrankheiten (Normal and Pathologic Physiology of the Skin II)**, E. Schwarz, H. W. Spier, and G. Stuttgart, Springer-Verlag, 1979 (606 pp, \$319)

For more than 50 years the "Handbuch" series have been precise and thorough reference sources. The same holds for the latest issue, which is on epidermal physiology. Planned by H. W. Spier, who died before he could finish the task, and the co-editors, E. Schwarz and G. Stuttgart, followed the classical "Handbuch" look: they produced a comprehensive review about major aspects of epidermal physiology. Overall, it is superbly printed but slightly outdated.

The first chapter, by Schwarz, reviews epidermal keratinization and